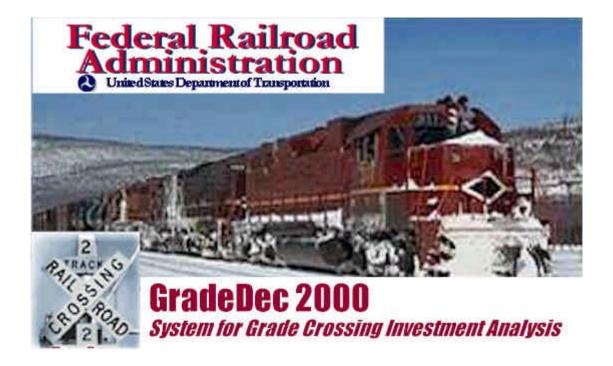
GradeDec 2000 version 1.4

# **Reference Manual**

### **Federal Railroad Administration**



Office of Policy and Program Development

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# Introduction

# GradeDec 2000

## **Description and Objective**

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) developed *GradeDec 2000* as an investment decision support tool for use by state and local authorities. The careful analysis and selection of highway-rail grade crossing investments serves to increase public returns for each dollar invested.

GradeDec 2000 is a stand-alone, software package that functions as an investment decision support tool. It allows state and local decision makers to prioritize highway-rail grade crossing investments based upon an array of benefit-cost measures. GradeDec 2000 evaluates the benefit-cost of grade crossing improvements while explicitly reporting the results for each grade crossing and each benefits category (safety, time savings, vehicle operating costs, reduced emissions, network and local benefits). Localities can use GradeDec 2000 to focus on the benefit metric of greatest local interest. For instance, an area marked by high levels of highway congestion at grade crossings can identify the improvements most likely to improve traffic flows. For a rural area with unacceptably high accident rates, GradeDec 2000 assists in identifying the investments needed to improve safety.

GradeDec 2000 conducts a benefit-cost analysis to determine the economic rate of return for highway-rail grade crossing investments. The economic rate of return is appropriate for measuring public returns because it captures a wide range of benefits that accrue to users of the transportation system and society as a whole, i.e., reductions in accidents and emissions, time and vehicle operating cost savings. GradeDec2000 calculates the economic rate of return by comparing the streams of expected economic benefits over time with the streams of investment, operating and maintenance and other life-cycle costs. The model discounts later year benefits and costs to reflect the opportunity cost of capital. This process of discounting converts all values to present value equivalents thus enabling the comparison of benefits and cost realized in different time periods.

*GradeDec 2000's* analysis of grade crossing improvements is both at the individual grade crossing and at the corridor or regional level. Output includes result metrics for the individual grade crossings and for the corridor or region as a whole. A series of up to 500 grade crossing improvements can be evaluated simultaneously.

GradeDec 2000's underlying methodology is consistent with the current benefit-cost methodologies employed by United States Department of Transportation Agencies (Federal Railroad Administration, Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, and Federal Aviation Administration) and with Executive Order 12893, which governs the principles of federal infrastructure investment. The model is transparent in all of its assumptions and model inputs are readily accessible to users who may wish to adjust them to more closely reflect local conditions.

*GradeDec 2000* integrates several modeling capabilities in a single package. It includes separate modeling modules for corridor and regional analysis. The corridor analysis module evaluates crossing improvements along a single rail alignment. The corridor analysis accounts for impacts on the adjacent highway network and shifts in highway to routes with improved crossings. The module for regional analysis evaluates crossing improvements in a region (county or several counties) regardless of the crossings being located on a single or multiple rail alignments.

Both the corridor and the regional analysis modules of *GradeDec 2000* include the US DOT Accident Prediction and Severity Model. The corridor analysis module includes as well the grade crossing risk mitigation model for high speed rail that was developed by the Volpe National Transportation Systems Center.

GradeDec 2000 includes a risk analysis modeling capability. This capability enables the user to accommodate the numerous uncertainties that are inherent in any forecast. Rather than relying on "best guess" inputs whose actual values may vary widely, risk analysis incorporates input ranges. For a designated set of operational and policy variables in GradeDec 2000, users can set ranges describing probability distributions. These ranges reflect best available data and empirical evidence combined with any expert judgments that the user brings to bear in the analysis. GradeDec 2000 includes a graphical interface that facilitates data entry and the visualization of probability distributions. GradeDec 2000 presents its results, the outcomes of risk analysis simulations, as probability distributions. These results and their mode of presentation support informed decision-making by providing the full range of possible outcomes rather than relying upon a point estimate.

*GradeDec 2000* represents a major upgrade from the previous release of GradeDec. It incorporates additional analytic algorithms and handles many more grade crossings simultaneously. *GradeDec 2000* strives to meet the needs of both experienced and novice users. Experienced analysts can take advantage of newer features and capabilities while less experienced analysts can rely upon pre-defined default values and should find *GradeDec 2000* easy to use for conducting an analysis.

# **About This Document**

This document is the reference for the *GradeDec 2000* model. The remainder of this document presents the model components, the computation algorithms, and descriptions of the data inputs to the model.

In order to best utilize the *GradeDec 2000* model you should refer to the companion volume to this document called "User's Manual for *GradeDec 2000"*. The abbreviation GCX will be used in the document to designate "grade crossing".

This document is not a benefit-cost analysis manual. It assumes that readers are generally familiar with benefit-cost analysis, its application and some basic concepts like present value and rate of return. Useful references for using benefit-cost analysis can be found in NCHRP Report No. 342, the AASHTO Redbook and Transport Canada's Benefit-Cost Manual.

# **Model Overview**

## Introduction

*GradeDec 2000* is a grade crossing investment analysis tool that includes both a platform for organizing the data for your analysis and a computational risk analysis model. This Overview presents the frame of analysis, the computational model and the data and their organization.

# The Analysis Frame of GradeDec 2000

The analysis frame of *GradeDec 2000* considers a proposed set of grade crossing investments on a rail corridor, or a region, over a specified time horizon. The analysis of benefits and costs compares the present value of costs and benefits in the "alternate case" (with investment) to the costs and benefits in the "base case" (without investment).

The following are the definitions and assumptions for the *GradeDec 2000* analysis frame:

# **Grade Crossing Investments**

A grade crossing investment is a one-time, capital outlay that transforms the grade crossing from one pre-defined type to another. The pre-defined types are: 1) passive, 2) flashing lights, 3) flashing lights and gates, 4) closure, 5) grade separation and 6) "new technology". The "new technology" grade crossing type is not defined, however, the analysis assumes that the accident risk in each severity category with "new technology" is half that in comparison with a flashing lights and gates grade crossing.

The type of grade crossing determines in the analysis the expected number of accidents by severity. When proposed investments include grade crossing closures and separations, the allocation of traffic on the highway network may be affected in the analysis.

### **Base Case and Alternate Case**

The Base Case represents the "no investment" scenario. In the Base Case, the analysis evaluates the operational impacts and associated benefits and costs over the time horizon of the analysis with the assumption of no investment. Strictly speaking, an analysis may (and should) include a program of modest investments in the Base Case if these investments are part of a minimal fall back position and are most likely to be undertaken regardless of the decision on the more extensive investments.

In the Alternate Case, the analysis evaluates the benefits and costs under the assumption that the proposed investments have been implemented.

In *GradeDec 2000* the following parameters are set for each of the two cases:

- Type of each grade crossing
- Accident rates by severity
- O&M and other lifecycle costs
- Capital investment (alternate case only).

## Corridor or Region

GradeDec 2000 evaluates a collection of grade crossings in a single analysis. The user must select whether to include the crossings for evaluation in a corridor or in a region. GradeDec 2000 has a separate analytic model for corridors and for regions. The corridor model provides greater analytic depth than the regional model. The following features are available in the corridor model, but not in the regional model:

Choice of high speed rail model or DOT model for accident prediction and severity,

- Re-assignment of highway traffic at grade separated or closed crossings,
- Estimation of benefits from a reduction in delay on the adjacent highway network.

If the crossings for evaluation lie on a single rail alignment, then the user should use the corridor model. On the other hand, if the candidate crossings for improvement span several alignments and are grouped in a region, then the user should use the regional model. Currently, *GradeDec 2000* is able to extract data directly from the National Grade Crossing Inventory database and import the data directly into a region using the regional crossing data entry form. The next version of *GradeDec 2000* will include a similar capability for importing data into the corridors from the National Grade Crossing Inventory and other external sources.

#### The Corridor

The rail corridor is a single, continuous alignment of one or more railroad tracks. The corridor may include up to 500 grade crossings that are candidates for improvement. The *GradeDec 2000* model characterizes the rail corridor by several parameters:

• The average daily number of trains by type (passenger, freight and switch) in the base year (see definition below).

- The time-of-day distribution of rail traffic (there are five pre-defined, time-of-day traffic distributions)
- A Boolean (yes/no) flag that specifies whether grade crossing closings are synchronized with the highway traffic signaling system in the corridor.
- A factor for technology improvement. New technologies include nonconventional barriers and systems that provide timely notification to approaching trains of vehicle intrusion. Due to the absence of historical data on the performance of devices of these types, GradeDec 2000 does not provide historically based estimates of new technology impacts. Values supplied for this factor represent the analyst's best judgment regarding the likely impact of new technology relative to conventional flashing lights and gates closure. For instance, a value of 0.5 for this factor will reduce by half the accident risk relative to flashing lights and gates.

The corridor model analysis evaluates the impacts of closures and separations along the rail corridor. For closed crossings in the alternate case, the highway traffic from the crossing is re-allocated to adjacent crossings in the corridor. For grade separation improvements, the model estimates the attracted traffic to the grade separated crossing from adjacent crossings (see sections below on traffic re-assignment).

In addition to time savings benefits for highway vehicles at the crossing, the corridor model calculates the impact of reduced queuing at the crossings on highway network delays

### The Region

The regional analysis considers crossings in a geographic region: a county, several counties or any collection of crossings that may or may not be part of a common alignment. The regional analysis does not account for any re-assignment of highway traffic in the event of closure or separation. Because there is no accounting for reallocated traffic if a crossing is closed, the analyst needs to specify a parameter in the crossing data entry that indicates the percent reduction in user costs for the closed crossing. See the discussion on this parameter ("percent benefits at closed crossing") in the data entry section.

Like a corridor, a region can include for analysis up to 500 grade crossings.

While a regional analysis provides less depth, the analyst can import most of the required data directly for a designated region from the National Grade Crossing Inventory Database (provided with the *GradeDec 2000* package).

### The Time Horizon

The time horizon of a GradeDec 2000 analysis is determined by the "start year" and "end year" values of the input scenario. The analysis assumes that all investments in the corridor are executed in "year 0" (the base year) and that benefits accrue beginning in "year 1" (start year). For instance, if a scenario has start year 2001 and end year 2024 then the model assumes investments in the corridor have been completed by the end of 2000 (the base year) and are fully operational from the

beginning of 2001. Benefits from the investment will accrue in the alternate case beginning in year 2001. The analysis assumes that benefits and costs are realized at year end. The "present value" calculation converts dollar values over the time horizon of the proposed investments to their equivalent dollar value at the beginning of the start year (i.e., benefits in the start year are discounted).

There are separate growth rate parameters in the model for the "near term" and the "far term". In many cases, planners face differing near-term and far-term growth outlooks. For instance, a region may have sound forecasts for near-term rapid growth yet may view these as unsustainable in the far-term. By allowing the user to split the time horizon into a near- and far-term while determining the duration of the near-term, *GradeDec 2000* accommodates a wide range of likely growth paths.

The user determines the near- and far-terms by specifying in the input scenario definition a year called "the last year of near term". The last year of near term is a year between the start year and end year. For instance, if the start year is 2001 and the last year is 2024, the last year of near term could be 2005. From the start year until and including the last year of near term, the model applies the near term growth rates for highway and rail traffic. From the year following the last year of near term and until the last year of the analysis, the model applies the far term growth rates.

### **Costs and Prices**

The calculations of *GradeDec 2000* assume constant dollar values and that relative prices, with the exception of fuel and oil, remain fixed over the time horizon of the investment. If all relative prices were fixed (i.e., if the ratio of the prices of any two goods or services did not change) then there would be no need to track prices in the model at all. Because the price of fuel and oil relative to other prices is allowed to vary, there is a need to track the general price level (inflation) and the level of the price of fuel and oil. This is necessary in order to calculate the constant dollar price of fuel and oil. Fuel (and oil) is singled out due to the volatility of fuel prices. The fuel and oil cost will likely fluctuate in comparison to other prices. In *GradeDec 2000*, if the price of fuel and oil increases faster than inflation, then the share of vehicle operating costs in total benefits will increase.

The "discount rate" is a constant dollar rate, that is, it is net of general price inflation.

# The GradeDec 2000 Computational Model

GradeDec 2000 includes the following analytic components:

- Re-assignment of highway traffic due to closures and grade separation (corridor model only)
- Calculation of safety benefits through predicted accidents and severity in the base and alternate cases
- Calculation of other benefits from crossing improvements

• Present value and benefit-cost summary including consumer surplus calculation for the corridor or region

For the estimation of safety benefits *GradeDec 2000* employs one of two different computational models depending upon the user's selections. These are:

- U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Accident Prediction and Severity Model (APS) and Resource Allocation Method
- Volpe National Transportation System Center (VNTSC) High-Speed Rail (HSR) Accident Severity Model

When using the corridor model, the user can choose which of the two models to use. For the regional model, only the DOT APS model is available. Both models estimate predicted accidents by severity category for the base case and alternate case. The difference between the quantities of incidents is then monetized (i.e., multiplied by a unit cost per incident) and summed by grade crossing and year to arrive at annual safety benefits.

In the DOT APS the incident metrics are "fatal accidents" (accidents with at least one fatality), "injury accidents" (accidents with no fatalities and at least one injury), and "property damage only" accidents. The HSR model estimates fatalities and injuries for both the highway and rail modes while examining casualties for different types of accidents and their probabilities of occurrence.

The following sections describe how the two safety models are integrated with the modes of usage of *GradeDec 2000*.

# The DOT Accident Prediction and Severity Model (APS) and the Resource Allocation Method

This model is described in the document *Summary of the DOT Rail-Highway Crossing Resource Allocation Procedure-Revisited*, Office of Safety, Federal Railroad Administration, June 1987, Report No. DOT/FRA/OS-87/05. The model includes three components: a formula for accident prediction, a formula for severity prediction and a model for resource allocation. The formulas for accident prediction and severity are based upon regression analyses of accidents and grade crossing characteristics. APS is applied in *GradeDec 2000* as described in the above document with one modification: *GradeDec 2000* corrects for the correlation between time-of-day distribution between rail and highway traffic.

The DOT method for resource allocation estimates the safety at crossings after improvement by applying "effectiveness multipliers" to the base case APS model results. These multipliers were derived from separate analyses of grade crossings and improvements. *GradeDec 2000* uses the resource allocation method in the corridor model (when the DOT APS model is chosen and not the HSR model) only in cases where there is no re-assignment of highway traffic at a crossing due to closures or separation. When average annual daily traffic changes at a crossing from the base to alternate case due to re-assignment, then the DOT APS is reapplied to the improved crossing characteristics and the new level of highway traffic.

The DOT APS formulas and the resource allocation method are always used in the regional model, using the same correction as the corridor model for correlation of time-of-day traffic distribution on the rail and highway modes.

# The VNTSC High Speed Rail Accident Severity Formulas

The HSR model is an optional feature of the corridor model in *GradeDec 2000*. The model used follows procedure described in *Assessment of Risks for High Speed Rail Grade Crossings on the Empire Corridor*, Mark Mironer and Michael Coltman, High Speed Ground Transportation Division, VNTSC, April 1998. This model uses the same accident prediction methodology as the DOT model, but has distinct accident severity formulas. The model is based on an analysis of grade crossing accidents while focusing on the accident types (train strikes vehicle, vehicle strikes train), the impact of severe derailment and fatalities among train as well as highway vehicle occupants. Unlike the DOT APS formulas, the HSR formulas are sensitive to train speed.

The following table presents a summary of *GradeDec 2000* features according to mode of usage:

Table 1 GradeDec 2000 Computation Model Features by Mode of Usage

	Corridor		Region	
	DOT Accident Prediction and Severity Model	HSR Accident Severity Model	DOT Accident Prediction and Severity Model	
Re-assignment of highway traffic with closure?	Yes	Yes	No, user sets percent of benefits with closure	
Re-assignment of highway traffic with grade separation?	Optional	Optional	No	
Application of DOT resource allocation method?	Yes, only if no change in AADT between base and alternate cases	No	Yes	
Calculation of train fatalities?	No	Yes	No	
Calculation of network delay impact from queuing at crossing?	Yes	Yes	No	
Accounting for signal synchronization?	Yes	Yes	No	
	For a	all GradeDec 200	0 Models	
Calculation of safety benefits, time savings, vehicle operating cost and emissions reduction at crossings?  Calculation of consumer surplus for corridor/region and benefits summary?  Reporting of benefits breakout by crossing and benefits category?  Charting of ranked safety risk by crossing in corridor or region?  Ranking of benefit-cost of results by crossing?  Advanced data access and management?  Risk analysis using either Monte Carlo or Latin Hypercube simulation?  Risk sensitivity analysis and tornado charts?  Choice of three probability distributions for inputs?  Visualization of input probability distributions with charts and tables?  Cumulative, de-cumulative and histogram charts for all results?		Yes		
Reports generator for results, scenarios, corridor/region?				

# Data and Data Organization in GradeDec 2000

This section provides a brief overview of data and their organization in *GradeDec 2000*. Data are organized into elements that correspond to their function in the model.

The four principal data elements are:

- Corridor or region data
- Grade crossing data
- Scenario (risk analysis) data
- Model parameter and default data

The corridor data include the corridor-level data covering base year rail operations, rail time-of-day traffic distribution, and a toggle designating whether there is grade crossing signal integration with the neighboring highway network. Corridor data also includes a technology parameter that represents the impact of a new technology crossing relative to a conventional gated crossing. The data for a region includes its description and technology parameter, while the rail characteristics are included in the crossing data.

The grade crossing data include the physical characteristics of the grade crossing, crossing type for base and alternate case, accident rates and cost data. Accident rates are stored with the crossing data for exposition purposes only. Predicted accidents are recalculated for each year of the evaluation when a simulation is run.

The scenario data include the policy variables and forecast values that are necessary for generating the forecast streams of benefits and costs. These data are organized into four data sets: rail operations, highway, social costs and price indexes.

The data tables include technical coefficients for fuel burn and emission rates. They also contain the default data for capital costs, time-of-day traffic distributions and the model parameters for the high speed rail accident severity model. The user can edit and modify all of the data and parameters described in this section.

# The Model

# Introduction

This section presents the computational model that was discussed in the "Model Overview". For each model component, explanations and formulas are provided. The following section covers the data and data organization of *GradeDec 2000*.

# **Accident Prediction and Severity**

The accident prediction and severity formulas in GradeDec 2000 are based upon the two sources cited in the introduction. These equations are applied in accordance with the mode of usage (corridor or regional model). In the corridor model, the user can specify whether to use the HSR formulas or the DOT formulas. Moreover, in the corridor model the alternate case calculation of accident prediction and severity will depend upon whether grade crossing improvements in the corridor, through closures and/or separation, result in re-allocation of highway traffic among crossings. The procedure by which GradeDec 2000 applies the different formulas is shown in the following figure.

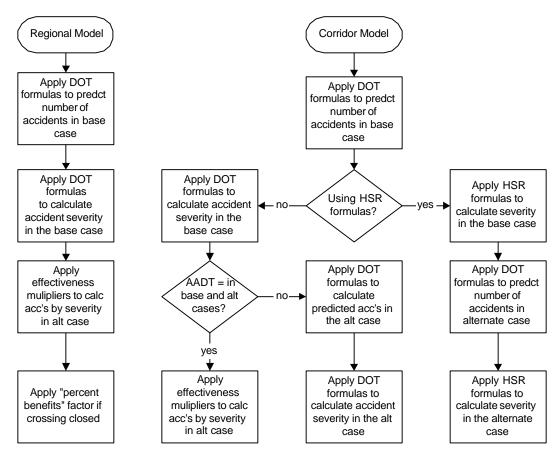


Figure 1 Application of Accident Prediction and Severity Formulas

The following sections describe the accident prediction and severity equations in *GradeDec 2000*.

# Forecast Highway and Rail Traffic

*GradeDec 2000* forecasts average daily highway traffic, by vehicle type, and number of trains, by train type, at each crossing based on base year traffic and traffic rates of growth for the near and the far term.

The formula for the highway traffic forecast at a crossings is:

Equation 1 Average Annual Daily Traffic (Highway) at Crossing

$$AADT_{year} = AADT_{year-1} \cdot \left(1 + \frac{AADTgr}{100}\right)$$

$$AADTgr = \begin{cases} AADTntgr, & if year \leq lynt \\ AADTftgr, & if year > lynt \end{cases}$$

$$AADT_{vear,vtype} = \beta_{vtype} \cdot AADT_{vear}$$

where:

year the current year of the analysis

AADT<sub>year</sub> average annual daily traffic in current year (all vehicle types) average annual daily traffic in previous year (all vehicle types)

AADTgr annual growth rate of AADT, percent

AADTntgr annual growth rate of AADT in near term, percent annual growth rate of AADT in far term, percent

lynt last year of near term

 $\begin{array}{ll} \text{vtype} & \text{vehicle type (i.e., auto, truck or bus)} \\ \beta_{\text{vtype}} & \text{share vehicle type of total highway traffic} \end{array}$ 

AADT<sub>vear,vtvpe</sub> average annual daily traffic in current year by vehicle type

### Equation 2 Average Daily Trains at Crossing

$$TV_{\text{year}} = TV_{\text{year-1}} \cdot \left(1 + \frac{TVgr}{100}\right)$$

$$TVgr = \begin{cases} TVntgr, & \text{if } year \leq lynt \\ TVftgr, & \text{if } year > lynt \end{cases}$$

$$TV_{\text{year,ttype}} = TV_{\text{year}} \cdot \frac{tvb_{\text{ttype}}}{\sum_{\text{ttype}} tvb_{\text{ttype}}}$$

where:

year the current year of the analysis

TV<sub>year</sub> average daily trains in current year (all train types)

TV<sub>year-1</sub> average daily trains in previous year (all highway vehicle types)

TVgr annual growth rate of average daily trains

TVntgr annual growth rate of average annual daily trains in near term TVftgr annual growth rate of average annual daily trains in far term

lynt last year of near term

ttype train type (i.e., passenger, freight, switch)

tvb<sub>ttype</sub> trains in base year by type

 $TV_{\text{year, ttype}}$  average daily trains in current year by type

# Exposure and Correlation of Time-of-Day Distributions by Highway and Rail

The principal explanatory factor for predicting accidents at grade crossings is exposure. Exposure is the probability that a train and a highway vehicle will both arrive at a grade crossing at the same time, thus allowing for the possibility of an accident. Exposure, and the effects of grade crossings improvements, will vary significantly depending upon whether the time-of-day distributions of rail and highway traffic are highly correlated (temporal match), or, are highly uncorrelated (temporal mismatch). As an extreme example, if all rail traffic was at night while all highway traffic was by day there would be no risk of accidents and no vehicles would ever stand waiting at a closed crossing.

The two safety models used in *GradeDec 2000* do not account for the correlation between the time-of-day distributions of rail and highway traffic. *GradeDec 2000* incorporates a modification to correct for this and requires that the user specify the time-of-day traffic distribution for the rail corridor, or in the case of the regional model, the user specifies the rail traffic time-of-day distribution for each crossing. The user also specifies the time-of-day distribution of highway traffic at each crossing for each of three traffic segments: car, truck and bus.

The distributions in *GradeDec 2000* divide the daily traffic into four six-hour periods. The user interface of *GradeDec 2000* lets the user select from among five pre-set traffic distributions. These are labeled: uniform, peak AM, peak PM, day flat and night flat.

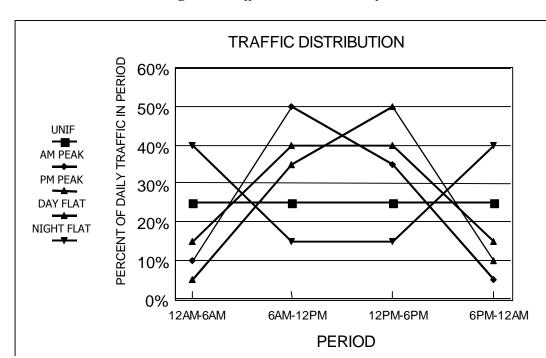


Figure 2 Traffic Distribution Profiles

*Table 2 Traffic Distribution Profiles (Share of Daily Traffic in Period)* 

	Uniform	AM Peak	PM Peak	Day Flat	Night Flat
12AM-6AM	0.25	0.10	0.05	0.05	0.40
6AM-12PM	0.25	0.50	0.35	0.40	0.05
12PM-6PM	0.25	0.35	0.50	0.40	0.15
6PM-12AM	0.25	0.05	0.10	0.15	0.40

The above time-of-day distributions are default values. These values can be changed by the analyst so as to more accurately correspond to time-of-day travel patterns in the corridor or region under consideration.

The degree of exposure is captured in the benefits evaluation by the exposure correlation factor that is given by the following equation:

Equation 3 Time-of-Day Exposure Correlation Factor

$$EF = \frac{\sum_{i} \left( a_{i} \sum_{j} \beta_{j} b_{ij} \right)}{Max \left( \sum_{i} a_{i}^{2}, \sum_{i} \sum_{j} \left( \beta_{j} b_{ij} \right)^{2} \right)}$$

where:

i an index designating the time-of-day periods (early AM, late AM, early PM, late

an index of highway vehicle type (auto, truck, bus)

a<sub>i</sub> the share of daily trains at the crossing in the ith time-of-day period

b<sub>ij</sub> the share of daily traffic of vehicle type j in the ith time-of-day period

 $\beta_j \hspace{1cm} \text{the share of vehicle type } j \hspace{1cm} \text{in daily highway traffic}$ 

Note: 
$$\sum_i a_i = 1, \quad \sum_i b_{ij} = 1, \quad \sum_j \beta_j = 1,$$

*GradeDec 2000* calculates the exposure correlation factor for each crossing and year of the evaluation.

GradeDec 2000 integrates with the DOT Accident Prediction formula by calculating the daily exposure equivalent that would be realized if the time-of-day correlation of traffic at the grade crossing equaled the national average. That "national average" is the average correlation that is reflected in the sample that served as the basis for the estimation of parameters in the DOT model. GradeDec 2000 calculates the exposure correlation factor for each crossing and year of the evaluation.

Equation 4 Daily Exposure with Time-of-Day Correlation

$$Expose = 1.35 \cdot EF \cdot AADT_{year} \cdot TV_{year}$$

where:

Expose base year daily exposure with time-of-day correlation, effective daily exposures

EF time-of-day exposure correlation factor (see equation 3 above)
AADT average annual daily traffic on the highway at the crossing

The value 1.35 in the above equation means that if there was full time-of-day correlation between the rail and highway modes at the crossing, then there would 35 percent more exposure than if the correlation were equal to the national average<sup>1</sup>. *GradeDec 2000* calculates the daily exposure with time-of-day correlation for each crossing and year of the evaluation.

### **Predicted Number of Accidents**

The predicted number of accidents at a crossing is based upon the DOT Accident Prediction and Severity formulas. The predicted number of accidents is calculated for each crossing in each year (for the base case and sometimes for both base and alternate cases – see Figure 1 above). Note that when using the DOT Accident Prediction and Severity model, the predicted number of accidents is normalized to account for the accident history at the crossing (N is the number of accidents at the crossing in the previous five years). However, when using the HSR model, the accident history is not included as part of the formula.

Equation 5 Predicted Number of Accidents at the Crossing

$$a = k \cdot EI \cdot DT \cdot MS \cdot MT \cdot HL \cdot HP$$

$$T_0 = \frac{1}{0.05 + a}$$

$$NA = \begin{cases} \frac{(a \cdot T_0) + N}{T_0 + 5} \cdot Adj & \text{for DOT formulas} \\ a \cdot Adj & \text{for HSR formulas} \end{cases}$$

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> 35% is the opinion of a surveyed expert regarding this factor's likely value.

#### where:

	Type of Grade Crossing						
	Passive	Flashing Lights	Lights and Gates	New Technology			
K	.0006938	.0003351	.0005745	.0001915			
EI	$\left[\frac{\text{Expose} + 0.2}{0.2}\right]^{0.37}$	$\left[\frac{\text{Expose} + 0.2}{0.2}\right]^{0.4106}$	$\left[\frac{\text{Expose} + 0.2}{0.2}\right]^{0.2942}$	$\left[\frac{\text{Expose} + 0.2}{0.2}\right]^{0.2942}$			
DT	$\left[\frac{dthru + 0.2}{0.2}\right]^{0.1781}$	$\left[\frac{dthru + 0.2}{0.2}\right]^{0.1131}$	$\left[\frac{dthru + 0.2}{0.2}\right]^{0.1781}$	$\left[\frac{dthru + 0.2}{0.2}\right]^{0.1781}$			
MS	e 0.0077 · ms	1	1	1			
MT	1	e <sup>0.1917</sup> ·tracks	e <sup>0.1512</sup> ·tracks	e <sup>0.1512</sup> ·tracks			
HL	1	e <sup>0.1826</sup> ·(lanes –1)	e <sup>0.142</sup> ·(lanes −1)	e <sup>0.142</sup> ·(lanes – 1)			
HP	$e^{-0.5966 \cdot (paved - 1)}$	1	1	1			
Adj	0.8239	0.6935	0.6714	0.6			

and, number of accidents in previous five years at grade crossing N daily exposure with time of day correlation, see equation 4 above Expose number of day through trains per day dthru maximum timetable speed at crossing, miles per hour number of main tracks tracks number of highway lanes lanes if highway is paved, Paved =1, if unpaved then Paved=2 paved regression coefficients k, Adj NA predicted number of accidents per year at the grade crossing

# Number of Accidents by Severity Category – DOT Formulas

The DOT Accident Severity formulas predict the number of fatal accidents (accidents with at least one fatality) and the number of casualty accidents (accidents with at least one fatality or injury). *GradeDec 2000* calculates the number of injury accidents (accidents with at least one injury, but no fatality) as the number of casualty accidents less the number of fatal accidents. Property damage only accidents are calculated as predicted accidents less casualty accidents.

The numbers of accidents by severity category are calculated from the following equation:

Equation 6 Predicted Number of Accidents at GCX by Severity Category (DOT Formulas)

KF = 440.9

 $MS = ms^{-0.9981}$ 

 $TT = (thru + 1)^{-0.0872}$ 

 $TS = (switch + 1)^{0.0872}$ 

 $UR = e^{0.3571 \cdot urban}$ 

KC = 4.481

 $MS_{CA} = ms^{-0.343}$ 

 $TK = e^{0.1153 \cdot tracks}$ 

 $UR_{CA} = e^{0.2960 \cdot urban}$ 

$$FA = \frac{NA}{1 + KF \cdot MS \cdot TT \cdot TS \cdot UR}$$

$$CA = \frac{NA}{1 + KC \cdot MS_{CA} \cdot TT \cdot TS \cdot UR_{CA}}$$

IA = CA - FA

PA = NA - FA - IA

where:

ms maximum timetable train speed, miles per hour

thru through trains per day switch switch trains per day

urban if crossing is urban, Urban=1, else Urban=0

tracks number of railroad tracks

NA predicted number of accidents per year at the grade crossing
FA predicted number of fatal accidents per year at the grade crossing
CA predicted number of casualty accidents per year at the grade crossing
IA predicted number of injury accidents per year at the grade crossing
PA predicted number of PDO accidents per year at the grade crossing

# Number of Accidents by Severity Category – HSR formulas

While the DOT formulas calculate the predicted accidents by severity, the high speed rail model calculates the predicted number of fatalities among highway vehicle and

train occupants. *GradeDec 2000* calculates the number of injuries as a fixed ratio to the number of fatalities.

The following figure shows the calculation flow for the high-speed rail accident severity formulas. The following equations show the calculation of fatalities at grade crossing accidents based upon: accident type (train strikes vehicle or vehicle strikes train), vehicle type (auto, truck or truck trailer), and occupants by mode (rail or highway).

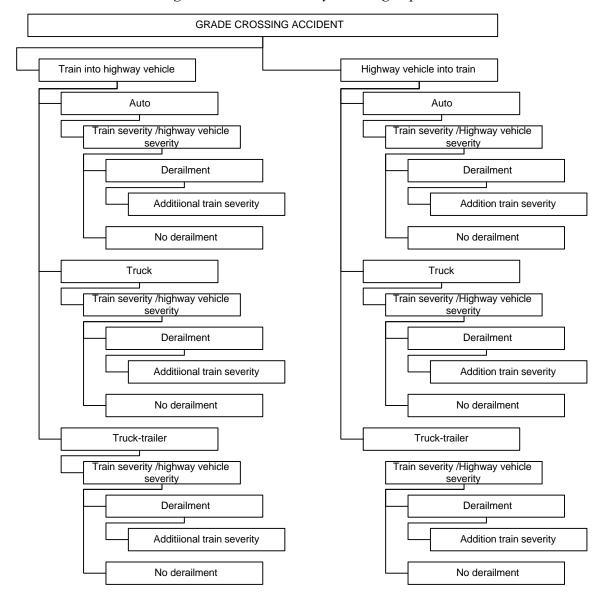


Figure 3 Accident Severity with High Speed Rail Formulas

Equation 7 Predicted fatalities by mode of occupancy for accident given train strikes highway vehicle (HSR)

$$Ftsv_{occ} = \sum_{ttype} \left[ \alpha_{ttype} \cdot \overline{sp}_{ttype}^2 \cdot \sum_{vtype} \beta_{vtype} \cdot \left( \gamma_{atype,vtype,occ} + P(sd)_{vtype} \cdot s_{vtype,occ} \right) \right]$$

and,

$$\frac{1}{sp} = \begin{cases} sp_{ttype}, sp_{ttype} \le sp^{max} \\ sp^{max}, sp_{ttype} > sp^{max} \end{cases}, \text{ for occ } = \text{Highway vehicle occupants}$$

$$\overline{sp}_{ttype} = sp_{ttype}$$
, for occ = Train occupants

Equation 8 Predicted fatalities for accident given highway vehicle strikes train (HSR)

$$Fvst_{occ} = \sum_{ttype} \alpha_{ttype} \cdot \sum_{vtype} \beta_{vtype} \cdot \gamma_{atype,vtype,occ}$$

where:

Ftsv<sub>occ</sub> predicted fatalities when train strikes vehicle, by occupancy mode Fvst<sub>occ</sub> predicted fatalities when vehicle strikes train, by occupancy mode

occ occupancy mode of fatality (e.g., train occupants, highway vehicle occupants)

atype accident type (e.g., train strikes vehicle, vehicle strikes train)

vtype vehicle type (e.g., auto, truck, truck trailer) ttype train type (passenger, freight, switch)

 $\gamma_{atype,vtype,occ}$  model coefficient by accident type, highway vehicle type and occupancy mode of

casualties

 $\begin{array}{ll} \beta_{vtype} & \text{share of vehicle type in highway traffic} \\ \alpha_{ttype} & \text{share of train type in total rail traffic} \\ sp_{ttype} & \text{average train speed, for train type} \end{array}$ 

sp<sup>max</sup> train speed of maximum impact on highway fatalities

 $P(sd)_{vtype}$  probability of severe derailment

sd added severity with severe derailment (model coefficient)

### Equation 9 Total Predicted Fatalities (HSR)

$$F = Ptsv \cdot \sum_{occ} Ftsv_{occ} + (1 - Ptsv) \cdot \sum_{occ} Fvst_{occ}$$

where:

F total predicted fatalities

Ftsv<sub>occ</sub> predicted fatalities when train strikes vehicle, by occupancy mode Fvst<sub>occ</sub> predicted fatalities when vehicle strikes train, by occupancy mode Ptsv probability that accident is of type train strikes highway vehicle

#### Equation 10 Total Predicted Injuries (HSR)

$$I = u \cdot F$$

where:

I total predicted injuries F total predicted fatalities

u ratio of predicted injuries to fatalities

## **Effectiveness Multipliers**

The DOT resource allocation method recommends that the following effectiveness multipliers be applied to predicted accidents in the base case in order to arrive at the estimate for safety risk at the grade crossing with the proposed improvements.

Table 3 Effectiveness Values for Crossing Warning Devices

	i otai trains per day				
	10 or	· less	More than 10		
Improvement Action	Single Track	Multiple Track	Single Track	Multiple Track	
Passive to Flashing Lights	0.75	0.65	0.61	0.57	
Passive to Flashing Lights with Gates	0.9	0.86	0.8	0.78	
Flashing Lights with Gates	0.89	0.65	0.69	0.63	

# **Highway Traffic Re-Assignment (Corridor Model Only)**

With the corridor model, *GradeDec 2000* re-assigns highway traffic at the grade crossing in two instances: 1) a grade crossing closure and, 2) a grade separation. The rationale for the re-assignment is that with closure forecast traffic will take alternate routes and will cross the rail lines at other points of crossing in the corridor in order to reach their destination. With grade separation, the grade-separated route will have less traffic impedance than it would have had without the improvement. Travelers will have a greater propensity to choose the route with less impedance and, therefore, some diversion of traffic to the grade-separated route is anticipated. Re-assignment of traffic at grade separated crossings is a feature that the user can turn on or off when running a simulation.

Highway traffic is re-assigned in *GradeDec 2000* model prior to the calculation of all benefit categories.

#### **Grade Closures**

The re-assigned AADT for the GCX adjacent below (i.e., lower milepost number) to the closed GCX is given by:

Equation 11 Diversion from Closure to Lower Adjacent GCX

$$aadt_{i-1} = aadtb_{i-1} + aadt_i \cdot \left[1 - \frac{mp_i - mp_{i-1}}{mp_{i+1} - mp_{i-1}}\right]$$

where:

aadt<sub>i-1</sub> average annual daily traffic at the GCX adjacent and below the closure, after re-

accionment

aadt<sub>i</sub> average annual daily traffic at the closed GCX before re-assignment

aadtb<sub>i-1</sub> average annual daily traffic at the GCX adjacent and below the closure, before re-

assignment

mp<sub>i</sub> the milepost value of the ith GCX, the closed crossing from which traffic is diverted

The re-assigned AADT for the GCX adjacent above (i.e., higher milepost number) to the closed GCX is given by:

Equation 12 Diversion from Closure to Upper Adjacent GCX

$$aadt_{i+1} = aadtb_{i+1} + aadt_{i} \cdot \left[1 - \frac{mp_{i+1} - mp_{i}}{mp_{i+1} - mp_{i-1}}\right]$$

where:

aadt<sub>i+1</sub> AADT at the GCX adjacent and above the closure, after re-assignment

aadt<sub>i</sub> AADT at the closed GCX before re-assignment

aadtb<sub>i+1</sub> AADT at the GCX adjacent and above the closure, before re-assignment

mp<sub>i</sub> the milepost value of the ith grade crossing

### **Grade Separation**

After re-assigning traffic due to closures *GradeDec 2000* looks for grade separations and re-assigns traffic to account for the reduced traffic impedance at separated crossings. The model can be run without re-assigning traffic due to grade separations. On the simulation screen of the model, uncheck the box that says "Re-assign traffic if grade separated".

The potential AADT diverting from an adjacent crossing to a grade separated crossing is given by:

Equation 13 Potential AADT Diverted from Adjacent Crossing to Grade Separated Crossing

pAADTd = min PD + (max PD - min PD) 
$$\cdot \frac{1}{1 + e^{-(\alpha + \beta \cdot D)}}$$

where:

pAADTd percent of potential AADT diverting from the GCX due to a grade separation at an

adjacent GCX (a function of the distance to the nearest major highway intersection)

min PD minimum percent of potential AADT diverting from the GCX due to a grade

separation at an adjacent GCX (independent of the distance to the nearest highway

intersection). This value is set to 5.

max PD maximum percent of potential AADT diverting from the GCX due to a grade

separation at an adjacent GCX (independent of the distance to the nearest highway

intersection). This value is set to 15.

α equation parameter set to 4.783. This parameter and the following one are set to

meet two conditions: 1) if distance of GCX is .1 miles from closest major highway intersection then the value of F in the above equation is 0.99, and 2) if distance of GCX is 5 miles from closest major highway intersection then the value of F in the

above equation is 0.01.

gequation parameter set to -1.876 and meeting the conditions described above.

D percent of potential AADT diverting from the GCX due to a grade separation at an

adjacent crossing

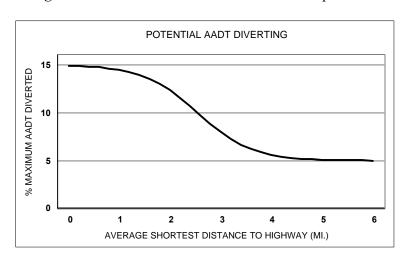


Figure 4 Potential Diversion due to Grade Separation

Equation 14 Percent AADT Diverted from Crossing to adjacent Grade Separated Crossing

$$pcAADTdivert = pAADTd \cdot \left(1 - \frac{\Delta MP}{max MP}\right)^{\gamma}$$

where:

γ

pcAADTdivert percent of diversion of AADT from the traffic at the GCX to the adjacent, grade

separated GCX

pAADTd percent of potential AADT diverting from the GCX due to a grade separation at an

adjacent GCX (see above equation)

 $\Delta$ MP distance between the adjacent GCX and the grade separated GCX

max MP the maximum distance between adjacent GCXs, beyond which there is no diversion

due to grade separation. This value is set to 10 miles in the model.

an equation parameter reflecting the diminishing impact of grade separation on the

route choice as the position of the adjacent GCX is further from the grade separated crossing. The parameter determines the concavity and the pace at which the impact diminishes with distance from grade separation. In the model and in Figure 5 below

the parameter is set at 1.5.

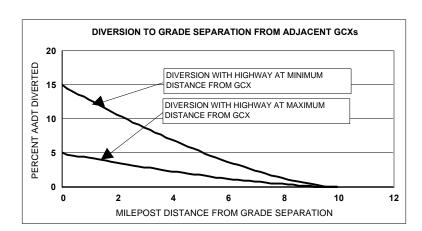


Figure 5 Diversion due to Grade Separation

## **Benefits and Costs**

The following sections describe the calculation of benefits and costs in *GradeDec 2000*.

## **Safety Benefits**

The accident prediction and severity sections above describe the procedures for calculating predictions by severity type, with the DOT formulas, and fatalities and injuries, with the HSR formulas. *GradeDec 2000* calculates the safety benefits as:

Equation 15 Safety Benefits (for each year and crossing – with DOT formulas)

$$SB = \sum_{i} (AccB_{i} - AccA_{i}) \cdot CPAcc_{i}$$

where:

SB safety benefit, constant dollars

 $\begin{array}{ll} i & \text{accident severity type (fatal, injury, PDO)} \\ AccB_i & \text{number of accidents in base case, type i} \\ AccA_i & \text{number of accidents in alternate case, type i} \\ \end{array}$ 

CPAcc<sub>i</sub> cost per accident, type I

Equation 16 Safety Benefits (for each year and crossing – with HSR formulas)

$$SB = \sum_{i} [(CasB_{i} - CasA_{i}) \cdot CPCas_{i}] + (NAB - NAA) \cdot OPCAcc$$

where:

SB safety benefit, constant dollars
i casualty severity type (fatal, injury)
CasB<sub>i</sub> number of accidents in base case, type i
CasA<sub>i</sub> number of accidents in alternate case, type i

CPCas<sub>i</sub> cost per casualty, type I

NAB predicted number of accident, base case
NAA predicted number accidents, alternate case
OPCAcc average out-of-pocket cost, dollars

## **Travel Time Savings**

*GradeDec 2000* computes travel time benefits based on the change in delay experienced by the highway vehicles at the highway-rail grade crossings. Grade crossing delay is defined as the number of hours highway vehicles are blocked at highway-rail grade crossing due to closures from passing trains. The blockage time is calculated from the train speed and the train length. The model calculates the average crossing closure time as follows:

Equation 17 Average Crossing Closure Time (minutes)

$$CCT_{i} = \frac{cl_{i} \cdot nc_{i} + el}{spd_{i} \cdot cf} + \frac{36}{60}$$

$$ACCT = \frac{\sum_{i} \delta_{i} \cdot CCT_{i}}{\sum_{i} \delta_{i}}$$

where:

i index indicating the type of train: passenger, freight or switch

CCT<sub>i</sub> crossing closure time for train of type i, minutes

cl<sub>i</sub> average car length for train of type i, feet no average number of cars for train of type i

el engine length (set at 50 feet)

cf factor for converting mph to feet per minute, equal to 5280/60

spd<sub>i</sub> average speed at the crossing of train of type i, mph

 $\delta_i$  trains per day of type i

ACCT average crossing closure time, minutes

Time per train is calculated in minutes. 36 seconds are added to the time per train to account for the lead time of warning or closure prior to the arrival of a train (the model assumes that the lead time applies to passive crossings also, i.e., 36 seconds prior to the arrival of a train, highway motorists will not venture a crossing).

The model calculates the probability that an individual highway vehicle will be blocked at a highway-rail grade crossing and the minutes of delay per vehicle. The product of these two quantities provides the average delay that each highway vehicle endures. This quantity is then multiplied by the total number of highway vehicles that arrive at the blocked grade crossing to obtain the total vehicle hours of delay. The highway vehicle delay hours are divided into passenger vehicles and trucks based upon the percentage of trucks data entry for the crossing.

Equation 18 Average Daily Delay at Crossing by Vehicle Type

$$DPBV = \frac{ACCT}{60}$$

$$POB = \frac{EF \cdot TV \cdot ACCT}{24 \cdot 60}$$

 $HD = AADT \cdot DPBV \cdot POB$ 

 $TD = HD \cdot strucks$ 

 $BD = HD \cdot sbus$ 

 $PVD = HD \cdot (100 - strucks - sbus)$ 

where:

ACCT average crossing closure time, minutes
DPBV wait time (delay) for a blocked vehicle, hours
TV average number of trains per day in forecast year
EF exposure correlation factor, see equation 3

POB probability that a vehicle arriving at the crossing is blocked

AADT average annual daily traffic in forecast year

HD daily highway vehicle delay at the crossing, vehicle-hours

strucks share of highway vehicles that are trucks sbus share of highway vehicles that are buses TD truck delay at the crossing, truck-hours BD bus delay at the crossing, bus-hours

PVD passenger vehicle delay at the crossing, passenger vehicle-hours

The delay per blocked vehicle is equal to the time per train converted to hours. The probability that a vehicle is blocked equals the total daily block time (time per train times number of trains per day) times the exposure correlation factor (a number between 0 and 1 representing the correlation between the time-of-day distributions of rail and highway traffic).

The vehicle hours of delay are calculated at each crossing and for each year of the evaluation.

Equation 19 Time Savings Benefits (for each year and crossing)

 $PVDC = PVD \cdot avgocc \cdot votpx$ 

 $TDC = TD \cdot vottr$ 

 $BDC = BD \cdot (vottr + avgoccbus \cdot votpx)$ 

 $DCA = (PVDC + TDC + BDC) \cdot AF$ 

 $TTSB = DCA_{base} - DCA_{alt}$ 

where:

PVDC average daily passenger vehicle delay time cost, dollars PVD average daily passenger vehicle delay, vehicle-hours

avgocc average passenger vehicle occupancy, passengers per vehicle

votpx value of passenger time, dollars per hour BDC average daily bus delay time cost, dollars BD average daily bus delay, vehicle-hours

vottr value of truck time (driver time), dollars per hour TDC average daily truck delay time cost, dollars TD average daily truck delay, vehicle-hours

DCA annual delay costs, dollars AF annualization factor

TTSB annual travel time savings benefit, dollars

### **Environmental Benefits**

*GradeDec 2000* calculates the reduction in highway vehicle emissions due to reduced idle time at the grade crossings. There will be reduced emissions with grade separations and closures. However, the reductions in emissions at the closed GCX will typically be offset by increases in emissions at the crossings that absorb traffic diverted from the closed crossings.

There are emission rate tables for automobiles, transit vehicles, and trucks for three emission types: carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons, and nitrous oxide. The model uses these values to calculate emissions from idling vehicles at grade crossings. Emission costs for highway vehicles are calculated by multiplying the appropriate emission rate (by vehicle type) by the time spent by each vehicle type at the grade crossing. This calculation is performed for the base and alternate cases, the net difference being the change in vehicle emission.

Equation 20 Average Daily Emissions at Crossing by Vehicle Type

$$EM_{Etype} = \sum_{Vtype} ER_{Vtype,Etype} \cdot VD_{Vtype} \cdot \frac{60}{907185}$$

where:

 $\begin{array}{ll} Etype & emission \ type: \ HC, \ CO, \ NOx \\ Vtype & type \ of \ vehicle: \ car, \ truck \ or \ bus \\ ER_{Vtype, \ Etype} & emission \ rate \ (grams \ per \ minute) \\ \end{array}$ 

 $VD_{Vtype}$  daily vehicle hours of delay by vehicle type (same as PVD for passenger vehicles

and TD for trucks)

 $EM_{Etype}$  emissions by type (tons per day) The value 907185 is the number of grams per ton

Equation 21 Environmental Benefits (for each year and GCX)

$$EB = \sum_{Etype} [\left(EM_{Base,Etype} - EM_{Alt,Etype}\right) \cdot VOE_{Etype}] \cdot AF$$

where:

 $\begin{array}{lll} Etype & emission type: HC, CO, NOx \\ EM_{Base, Etype} & emissions by type in base case, tons \\ EM_{Alt, Etype} & emissions by type in alternate case, tons \end{array}$ 

 $VOE_{Etvde}$  emissions cost, dollars per ton

AF annualization factor

EB environmental benefit, dollars

## **Vehicle Operating Cost Savings**

GradeDec 2000 computes the vehicle operating cost savings as a result of the improvements at the highway-rail grade crossing. Savings are generated from the reduction in delay at the grade crossing following the grade crossing upgrade. Between the base and alternate cases, a reduction in delay will lead to decreased consumption of fuel and oil by the vehicles operating on the highways. Vehicle consumption of fuel and oil is calculated for each vehicle type using the rates of idling consumption of fuel and oil. The time delay for each vehicle type is multiplied by the consumption rate to derive the fuel or oil consumed by the vehicles at the grade crossing.

Vehicle operating cost savings are then calculated by aggregating the change in gasoline, diesel and oil consumption for the different vehicle types and multiplying by their respective costs.

Equation 22 Average Daily VOC at Crossing by Vehicle Type

$$FCI_{Ftype} = \sum_{Vtype} BR_{Vtype,Ftype} \cdot VD_{Vtype} \cdot 60$$

where:

Ftype fuel or oil type: gasoline, diesel, oil Vtype passenger vehicles, buses, trucks

BR<sub>Vtype, Ftype</sub> fuel burn rate rate - gallons (gas and diesel) or quarts (oil) per minute

VD<sub>Vtype</sub> daily vehicle hours of delay

FCI<sub>Ftvpe</sub> fuel/oil consumed idling during delays , gallons (gas and diesel) or quarts (oil)

Equation 23 Vehicle Operating Cost Benefits (for each year and GCX)

$$FCOST_{Ftype, year} = FCOST_{Ftype, year-l} \cdot \frac{(1 + fpirg_{year})}{(1 + cpirg_{year})}$$

$$FCIC_{Ftype} = FCI_{Ftype} \cdot FCOST_{Ftype}$$

$$FCIC = \sum_{Ftype} FCIC_{Ftype} \cdot AF$$

$$VOCB = FCIC_{Base} - FCIC_{Alt}$$

where:

FCOST<sub>Ftype, year</sub> the constant dollar price of fuel in forecast year

fpirg<sub>year</sub> the fuel price index rate of growth cpirg<sub>year</sub> the general price rate of growth

FCIC<sub>Ftype</sub> fuel cost by fuel type

 $FCI_{Ftype}$  average quantity of fuel consumed per day idling at GCX

AF annualization factor

VOCB vehicle operating cost benefit

### **Network Benefits (Corridor Model Only)**

*GradeDec 2000* computes the estimated impacts of GCX investments on delay reduction on the neighboring highway network. The calculation relies on the average queue length on the approaching highway segments and the distance to the nearest major highway intersection.

The model assumes that network delay is negligible when the queue does not extend to within one-quarter mile from the nearest highway. As the queue lengthens beyond the 1/4 mile range, the network delay increases until it reaches a value of 10 vehicleminutes at the point where the queue extends to the nearest highway crossing. The network delay will continue to increase at a declining rate as the queue length reaches and extends beyond the intersection. If the grade crossing signal is synchronized with the highway traffic signals, then network delay from the grade crossing is reduced by 50%. The calculation of network delay for each GCX in each year is as follows:

Equation 24 Network Delay (for crossing, year)

$$VAPH = \frac{AADT \cdot \sum_{j} \beta_{j} b_{per}}{6}$$

$$VAPB = VAPH \cdot \frac{ACCT}{60}$$

$$QL = \frac{vl \cdot VAPB}{5280 \cdot Lanes}$$

$$BPP = TV \cdot a_{per}$$

$$DQL = \begin{cases} QL - (dth - th), & \text{if } QL > (dth - th) \\ 0, & \text{if } QL \le (dth - th) \end{cases}$$

$$ND_{per} = \begin{cases} \frac{A \cdot DQL^{\beta} \cdot BPP \cdot ndpfq}{60} \text{, if sp false} \\ \\ \frac{A \cdot DQL^{\beta} \cdot BPP \cdot ndpfq \cdot 0.5}{60} \text{, if sp true} \end{cases}$$

$$ND = \sum_{per} ND_{per}$$

where:

ACCT average crossing closure time, minutes (see equation 17)

AADT average annual daily traffic at crossing

VAPH average number of vehicles arriving at crossing per hour in time-of-day period

b<sub>i,per</sub> share of daily highway traffic of vehicle type j in time-of-day period

 $\beta_i$  share of vehicle type j in daily traffic

VAPB average number of vehicles arriving at crossing during block

 $\begin{array}{lll} QL & \text{queue length at blocked crossing, miles} \\ vl & \text{average length of vehicle (set at 22 feet)} \\ TV & \text{average number of trains per day} \\ BPP & \text{average number of blocks per period} \\ a_{\text{per}} & \text{share of daily trains in time-of-day period} \end{array}$ 

DQL the portion of the queue length that contributes to network delay, miles

dth distance of crossing to nearest highway intersection, miles

th the distance from major intersection such that if queue extends beyond this point

network delay begins to accrue. Set at .25 miles.

ND<sub>Per</sub> network delay in time-of-day period, vehicle-hours

A a value calibrated so that network delay equals 10 vehicle-minutes when queue

reaches the intersection

β elasticity of network delay with respect to queue length, set to 0.7

sp true/false flag designating whether grade crossings are synchronized with signal

progression on the highway network

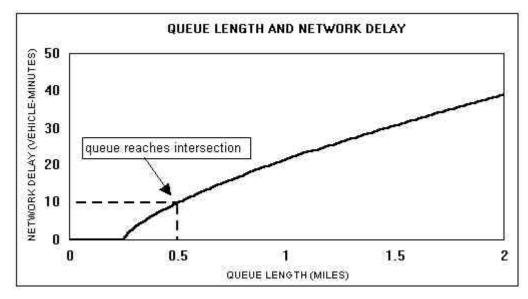
ndpfq the number of vehicle-hours of network delay caused by a queue extending to the

nearest major intersection. Set at one-sixth vehicle-hours (equal to 10 vehicle-

minutes)

ND daily network delay in vehicle-hours

Figure 6 Network Delay as a Function of Queue Length (when intersection is 0.5 miles from crossing)



As with the other benefits categories, network delay is calculated in the base and the alternate cases. The savings times the appropriate cost value is the network delay benefit.

Equation 25 Network Benefits (for each GCX and year)

 $NDPC = ND \cdot (1 - strucks - sbus) \cdot avgocc \cdot votpx$ 

 $NDBC = ND \cdot sbus \cdot (vottr + avgoccbus \cdot votpx)$ 

 $NDTC = ND \cdot strucks \cdot vottr$ 

 $NDCA = (NDPC + NDBC + NDTC) \cdot AF$ 

 $NDSB = NDCA_{base} - NDCA_{alt}$ 

where:

NDPC average daily cost of network delay, passenger vehicles, dollars

ND average daily network delay, vehicle-hours

avgocc average passenger vehicle occupancy, passengers per vehicle

votpx value of passenger time, dollars per hour strucks share of highway traffic that is trucks sbus share of highway traffic that is buses

NDBC average daily cost of network delay, buses, dollars avgoccbus average bus occupancy, passengers per bus

NDTC average daily cost of network delay, trucks, dollars

vottr value of truck time, dollars per hour NDCA annual network delay costs, dollars

AF annualization factor

NDSB annual network delay savings benefit, dollars

#### **Local Benefits**

Local benefits in the corridor are calculated as a percentage of the benefits from all the preceding benefits categories summed over all the grade crossings. These benefits represent the value of the grade crossing improvements to the local community or communities. These include benefits not conventionally counted like: improved mobility for residents (due to easier, safer crossings), reduced noise, economic benefits from improved access, etc. The local benefits are equal to the sum of all the previously discussed benefits times the local benefits factor.

Equation 26 Local benefits (for each year)

$$LB = \left(\sum_{GCX} SB + \sum_{GCX} TTSB + \sum_{GCX} VOCB + \sum_{GCX} EB + \sum_{GCX} NDB\right) \cdot lbf$$

where:

LB Annual local benefits in the corridor, dollars

SB Annual safety benefits, dollars
TTSB Travel time savings benefits, dollars

VOCB Vehicle operating cost savings benefits, dollars

EB Environmental benefits, dollars

NDB Network delay savings benefits, dollars

lbf Local benefits factor (exogenously determined factor)

## **Project Costs**

There are three components of project costs. First, there are capital outlays that are incurred in the alternative case. Second, annual operating and maintenance costs for each crossing. Third, other lifecycle costs for each of the grade crossings in the corridor. The following is the formula for costs:

Equation 27 Total and Net Project Costs (for each year)

$$TC_{Base} = OM_{Base} + LC_{Base}$$

$$TC_{Alt} = \begin{cases} OM_{Alt} + LC_{Alt} & , \text{if year} > 1 \\ OM_{Alt} + LC_{Alt} + CC_{Alt} \cdot (1 + dr) & , \text{if year} = 1 \end{cases}$$

$$NC = TC_{Alt} - TC_{Base}$$

where:

TC total project costs in year (for each case, base and alternate), dollars
OM operating and maintenance costs (for each case, base and alternate), dollars

LC other life-cycle costs (for each case, base and alternate), dollars

CC capital costs (alternate case only, presumed executed in year 0 - the base year),

dollars

dr discount rate

NC net project costs, dollars

# **Consumer Surplus**

The benefit components described above include only the benefits accruing to current users of the roadway network. With grade crossing improvements, the generalized cost of travel by car in the corridor or region will decline. As a result, we expect that grade crossing improvements will induce some additional highway traffic. The consumer surplus includes both the consumer surplus from the base case auto trips as well as from the induced trips (see Figure 7 below). The model assumes that bus and truck traffic in the corridor or region are not sensitive to the changes in generalized cost from grade crossing improvements.

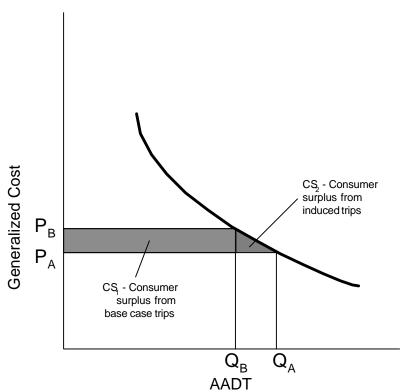


Figure 7 Consumer Surplus

In addition to incremental consumer surplus, induced trips will also generate external costs. *GradeDec 2000* calculates these external costs and deducts them from the total benefits. The following are the model equations for the calculation of consumer surplus and the external costs from induced trips.

Equation 28 Base Case Auto Travel Demand in the Corridor or Region

$$\begin{aligned} Q_B &= \sum_i \alpha_i \cdot AADT_i \\ \text{where:} \\ i &\qquad \text{index of the crossing (i.e., each of n crossings in the corridor or region is indexed} \\ &\qquad \text{from 1 to n)} \end{aligned}$$

 $\alpha_i$  auto share of traffic at the crossing AADT<sub>i</sub> average annual daily traffic at crossing i

The costs that influence the traveler's decision to make additional trips are the internal costs, namely: safety risk, travel time and vehicle operating cost.

Equation 29 Base case Generalized Cost of Auto Trips

$$P_{B} = \frac{\sum_{i} (\alpha_{i} \cdot sr_{Bi} + tt_{Bi} + voc_{Bi})}{(pTC/100) \cdot Q_{B}}$$

where:

P<sub>B</sub> imputed average generalized trip cost in the corridor

 $\alpha_i$  auto share of traffic at the crossing sr<sub>Bi</sub> auto cost of accidents at crossing i, dollars

tt<sub>Bi</sub> auto cost of accidents at crossing i, dollars voc<sub>Bi</sub> auto vehicle operating cost at crossing i, dollars pTC percent share of trip costs at the crossing

Q<sub>B</sub> auto AADT at crossings in the corridor or region

*GradeDec 2000* represents highway auto travel demand with a standard, Cobb-Douglas functional form, which has a fixed elasticity of demand with respect to generalized cost.

Equation 30 Auto Highway Travel Demand as a Function of Generalized Cost

 $Q = A \cdot P^\beta$ 

where:

Q daily trips that traverse the crossings in the corridor or region as measured by AADT

at the grade crossings

P the generalized average cost of auto trips traversing crossings in the region or

corridor

 $\beta$  elasticity of demand for auto trips with respect to generalized cost

A a constant, derived by substituting  $Q_B$ ,  $P_B$  and solving

The alternate case generalized cost is based on the imputed cost in the base case and the change in cost at the crossing.

Equation 31 Alternate Case Generalized Cost of Auto Trips

$$P_{A} = P_{B} + \left[ \sum_{i} (\alpha_{i} \cdot sr_{Ai} + tt_{Ai} + voc_{Ai}) - \sum_{i} (\alpha_{i} \cdot sr_{Bi} + tt_{Bi} + voc_{Bi}) \right]$$

where:

P<sub>B</sub> the imputed average generalized trip cost in the corridor in the base case

 $\alpha_i$  auto share of traffic at the crossing

voc<sub>Ai</sub> the auto vehicle operating cost at crossing i, alternate case, dollars

 ${
m sr}_{Bi}$  the cost of accidents at crossing i, base case, dollars  ${
m tt}_{Bi}$  travel time delay at crossing i, base case, dollars

voc<sub>Bi</sub> the auto vehicle operating cost at crossing i, base case, dollars

The travel demand in the alternate case is derived by applying the auto travel demand function from equation 30.

Equation 32 Alternate case auto travel demand

$$Q_{\Delta} = AP^{\beta}_{\Delta}$$

where:

P<sub>A</sub> alternate case average generalized cost of travel in the corridor or region elasticity of

auto travel demand with respect to generalized cost

A constant of demand equation

Consumer surplus is estimated in the conventional way as the area beneath the demand curve. Since the demand curve is based on daily traffic, the result is annualized.

Equation 33 Total Consumer Surplus (in each year)

$$CS = A \int_{P_{B}}^{P_{B}} P^{\beta} dP \cdot AF = \frac{A}{1+\beta} [P_{B}^{\beta+1} - P_{A}^{\beta+1}] \cdot AF$$

where:

 $P_A$  alternate case average generalized cost of travel in the corridor or region  $P_A$  base case average generalized cost of travel in the corridor or region

A demand equation constant

 $\beta$  elasticity of demand with respect to generalized cost

AF annualization factor

The consumer surplus from base case trips, and which is already included in the calculation of the benefit components, is given by:

Equation 34 Consumer Surplus from Base Case Trips (in each year)

$$CS_1 = (Q_A - Q_B) \cdot (P_B - P_A) \cdot AF$$

where:

Q<sub>B</sub> auto AADT at crossings in the base case Q<sub>A</sub> auto AADT at crossings in the alternate case

P<sub>B</sub> imputed average generalized trip cost in the corridor in the base case
P<sub>A</sub> imputed average generalized trip cost in the corridor in the alternate case

AF annualization factor

The consumer surplus from the induced trips is the difference between the total consumer surplus and the consumer surplus from base case trips.

Equation 35 Consumer Surplus from Induced Trips

$$CS_2 = CS - CS_1$$

The disbenefit that is generated by induced trips is equal to the external costs (congestion and emissions) that each induced trip generates. This disbenefit is estimated by the following equation.

Equation 36 Disbenefit from Induced Trips

DisBen = 
$$\left[\sum_{i} (ec_{Ai} + ndc_{Ai})\right] \cdot \left[\frac{AF}{pTC/100}\right]$$

where:

emission costs at crossing i, alternate case, dollars  $ec_i$ 

network delay costs due to queuing at crossing i, alternate case dollars ndci

pTC percent share of trip costs at the crossing

AF annualization factor

### **Total Benefits and Benefit-Cost Indicators**

GradeDec computes the corridor (or regional) level benefits from grade crossing improvements by aggregating the benefits estimated for each individual crossing and then adding the consumer surplus from induced trips and subtracting the disbenefit (in the form of external costs) from these trips. A simple sum is used to aggregate the safety benefits, travel time benefits, vehicle operating cost benefits, environmental benefits and network delay benefits.

Equation 37 Total benefits (excluding local) in corridor (for each year)

$$TB = \sum_{GCX} SB + \sum_{GCX} TTSB + \sum_{GCX} VOCB + \sum_{GCX} EB + \sum_{GCX} NDB + CS_2 - DisBen$$

where:

TB total annual local benefits in the corridor, dollars

SB annual safety benefits, dollars travel time savings benefits, dollars TTSB

**VOCB** vehicle operating cost savings benefits, dollars

EB environmental benefits, dollars

**NDB** network delay savings benefits, dollars CS<sub>2</sub> consumer surplus from induced trips

DisBen disbenefit from induced trips

The net benefits for the corridor or region are calculated as follows:

Equation 38 Net benefits (excluding local) in corridor (for each year)

$$NB = TB - NC$$

where:

NB net benefits, dollars TB total benefits, dollars NC net project costs, dollars

The following formulas give the present value calculations of benefits, costs and net benefits.

Equation 39 Present value benefits

$$PVB = \sum_{year} \frac{TB_{year}}{(1+dr)^{year}}$$

where:

PVB present value of benefits, dollars

TB total benefits, dollars

dr discount rate

Equation 40 Present Value Costs

$$PVC = \sum_{\text{vear}} \frac{NC_{\text{year}}}{(1+dr)^{\text{year}}}$$

where:

PVC present value of project costs, dollars

NC net costs, dollars dr discount rate

Equation 41 Net Present Value

NPV = PVB - PVC

where:

NB net present value, dollars
PVB present value benefits, dollars
PVC present value costs, dollars

The following is the benefit-cost ratio calculation.

Equation 42 Benefit-Cost Ratio

 $BCR = \frac{PVB}{PVC}$ 

where:

BCR benefit-cost ratio

PVB present value benefits, dollars PVC present value costs, dollars The following is the project rate of return calculation.

### Equation 43 Project Rate of Return

$$PRR = IRR(TB_{year} - NC_{year})$$

where:

PRR project rate of return

IRR designates a function that returns the discount rate for which the present value of the

net benefit stream is equal to zero.

TB<sub>year</sub> Total benefits, dollars NC<sub>year</sub> Net project costs, dollars

# Data and Data Organization

## Introduction

There are four principal data elements in *GradeDec 2000* and these were described in the Model Overview section above. The following sections include detailed descriptions of the data in each of the data elements.

## **Corridor Data**

The following are the corridor data variables. Except where noted, the variable descriptions are self-explanatory.

Number of Passenger Trains per Day Number of Freight Trains per Day Number of Switch Trains per Day Rail Traffic Daily Distribution

The user can choose from one of five daily traffic distributions: uniform, AM peak, PM peak, day flat, night flat. These distributions of traffic divide the daily traffic into four six-hour periods. These are early AM (12AM-6AM), late AM (6AM-12PM), early PM, (12PM-6PM), and late PM (6PM-12AM). The traffic distributions are each represented as a vector of four values that sum to 1. For example, the uniform distribution is given by (.25,.25,.25). The *GradeDec 2000* default distributions are given in the "Time-of-Day Distributions" section of "Model Components". The user can modify these distributions to reflect conditions in the corridor under evaluation.

#### Signal Synchronization with the Highway Network (yes/no)

This yes/no variable indicates whether the grade crossing signaling is synchronized with the signaling system of the adjacent highway network.

#### Technology Impact Factor

The accident incidence of the "new technology" crossing type will be determined by the Technology Impact Factor. This factor determines the safety risk of new technology relative to conventional lights and gates crossing barriers, i.e., a value of 0.5 for this factor will yield safety risk half that of a lights and gates crossing.

## **Region Data**

Besides its description, the following are the two parameters associated with a region:

#### **Technology Impact Factor**

See the description above under Corridor Data.

#### Percent Benefit from Closure

The regional model, unlike the corridor model, does not reassign traffic at the crossing when the crossing is closed. When a crossing is closed, there are no longer highway user costs at the crossing. However, the trips of highway users who used the route with the crossing in the base case did not simply disappear. Most likely, the highway trips at the crossing will divert to another crossing and new user costs will be realized at that crossing. This "percent benefits" parameter determines the percent of base case user costs that will be realized as a benefit. For instance, if the parameter is set to 0 this is equivalent to all highway users finding alternate routes that have exactly the same user costs as the base case. If this parameter is set to a value greater than 0 (say, 10) this implies that users find lower cost alternatives in the alternate case when the crossing is closed and 10 percent of the base case cost is realized as benefit. Conversely, if the parameter is set to –10 then users find alternatives that are 10% more costly than the base case and there is a net disbenefit from the closure.

## **Grade Crossing Data**

The following are the crossing data variables. The variables noted below are either common to both corridors and regions, or are unique to one or the other as noted. Except where noted, the variable descriptions are self-explanatory.

#### Milepost (corridor and region)

The Milepost is a decimal number (i.e., 153.7) that identifies the GCX and specifies its geographic location within the rail corridor. The difference between the mileposts of two consecutive GCXs should equal the distance between them in miles. The data for crossings in a corridor should be entered in a linear sequence (i.e., with mileposts

in either ascending or descending order). This order has no significance for a region and the milepost only serves as an additional identifier of the crossing.

#### Crossing ID (region only)

This is the unique crossing ID corresponding to the 7-character crossing identifier in the National Inventory of Grade Crossings.

#### Paved/Unpaved (corridor and region)

This yes/no variable designates whether the highway at the crossing is paved or unpaved.

#### Urban/Rural (corridor and region)

A yes/no variable that designates whether the GCX is in an urban or rural

#### Grade Crossing Base Type (corridor and region)

This variable designates the type of crossing in the base case.

There are six types of grade crossings used in *GradeDec 2000*: passive, flashing lights only, flashing lights and gates, closure, grade separation and new technology. The "new technology" type of grade crossing is a hypothetical type of crossing that may involve advanced traffic management and information systems and/or new kinds of barriers.

For crossings in a region, the crossing types correspond to the crossing types in the National Inventory of Grade Crossings database. *GradeDec 2000* maps these types into the types used by its model as follows:

National Inventory Crossing Type	GradeDec 2000 Crossing Type	
No Device	Passive	
Stand Stop		
Crossbucks		
Special Procedure		
Flashing Lights	Flashing Lights	
Wigwags	Lights and Gates	
Gates	-	

Region crossing types also include closure, grade separation and new technology. These are the same types as in the corridor model.

#### Grade Crossing Alternate Type (corridor and region)

This variable designates the type of crossings in the alternate case. See the descriptions for crossing types in the base case.

Number of Highway Lanes (corridor and region)

Highway Traffic (AADT) (corridor and region)

This is the bi-directional average annual daily highway traffic at the crossing.

Of the Highway Traffic, the Percent of Vehicles that are Trucks (corridor and region)

# Of the Highway Traffic, the Percent of Vehicles that are Buses (corridor and region)

#### Auto Time-of-Day Traffic Distribution (corridor and region)

This variable represents the distribution of auto traffic at the crossing in a typical 24-hour period.

The user can choose from one of five daily traffic distributions: uniform, AM peak, PM peak, day flat, night flat. These distributions of traffic divide the daily traffic into four six-hour periods. These are early AM (12AM-6AM), late AM (6AM-12PM), early PM, (12PM-6PM), and late PM (6PM-12AM). The traffic distributions are each represented as a vector of four values that sum to 1. For example, the uniform distribution is given by (.25,.25,.25,.25). The *GradeDec 2000* default distributions are given in the "Exposure and Correlation of Time-of-Day Distributions by Highway and Rail" subsection of "The Model" section. The user can modify these distributions to reflect conditions in the corridor or region under evaluation.

#### Truck Time-of-Day Traffic Distribution (corridor and region)

This variable represents the distribution of truck traffic at the crossing in a typical 24-hour period. See the discussion under auto time-of-day traffic distribution.

#### Bus Time-of-Day Traffic Distribution (corridor and region)

This variable represents the distribution of bus traffic at the crossing in a typical 24-hour period. See the discussion under auto time-of-day traffic distribution.

### Number of Railroad Tracks (corridor)

This is the number of traffic-bearing tracks at the crossing.

Number of Main Railroad Tracks (region)

This is the number of daily traffic-bearing tracks at the crossing.

Number of Other Railroad Tracks (region)

Other tracks at the crossing are special use tracks.

Maximum Schedule Train Speed (corridor and region)

Average Number of Day Through Trains (region)

This includes both passenger and freight trains.

Average Number of Night Through Trains (region)

This includes both passenger and freight trains.

Average Number of Day Switch Trains (region)

Average Number of Night Switch Trains (region)

Distance from Highway (corridor only)

This is the distance, measured in miles, from the crossing to the nearest major highway intersection.

Number of Accidents at Crossing in Past Five Years

#### **Crossing Costs**

The cost data for the crossing include O&M costs and other lifecycle costs for the base and alternate cases and capital costs for the alternate case. O&M and other lifecycle costs are annual outlays that are repeated every year. Capital costs (i.e. the cost of improving the crossing) is a one-time outlay that is expended in the year prior to the start year of the analysis

## **Scenario Data**

The scenario data include those variables to which probability distributions can be assigned. There are distinct scenarios for the two models, as the set of variables for the corridor model differs slightly from that of the regional model. In the descriptions below, the variables belonging to each model are shown.

A simulation engine solves the *GradeDec 2000* model for a specified number of trials. For each trial, a randomly sampled value is selected from each of the probability distributions as its input value. The collection of model solutions represents a probability distribution of the model's result variables.

The scenario variables are divided into four data sets, namely: Rail Operations, Highway, Social Costs and Price Indexes. For each of the variables in the scenario data the user can specify whether the value is fixed or, is one of four types of probability distributions. These distributions types are:

- uniform probability distribution, which requires the specification of two end points of an interval to define the distribution.
- normal probability distribution, which requires that the user specify the mean value and the standard deviation of the distribution, and
- a skewed-bell distribution that is normal when symmetric, but allows for skew and which requires three defining points corresponding to its 10, 50 and 90 percentiles.
- A triangle distribution, where the user specifies a minimum value, maximum value and the most likely value.

## **Rail Operations**

These variables are used to define the rail operations in the corridor. The variables are:

Annual Rate of Growth in Train Traffic, Near Term, Percent (corridor and region)

Annual Rate of Growth in Train Traffic, Far Term, Percent (corridor and region)

Number of Rail Cars per Freight Train (corridor)

Number of Rail Cars per Passenger Train (corridor)

Number of Rail Cars per Switch Train (corridor and region)

Average Length of Freight Rail Cars, Feet (corridor)

Average Length of Passenger Rail Cars, Feet (corridor)

Average Length of Switch Train Cars, Feet (corridor and region)

Number of Rail Cars per Through Train (region)

Average Length of Through Train Rail Cars, Feet (region)

## **Highway**

The following variables define the corridor-level highway characteristics. The highway data are required for the forecasting of highway-related benefits.

Annual Rate of Growth of Highway Traffic, Near Term, Percent (corridor and region)

Annual Rate of Growth of Highway Traffic, Far Term, Percent (corridor and region)

Annualization Factor (corridor and region)

This is a factor for converting daily benefits to annual benefits.

Average Auto Vehicle Occupancy (corridor and region)

This is the average number of occupants per vehicle.

Average Bus Vehicle Occupancy (corridor and region)

This is the average number of passenger occupants on a bus.

Elasticity of Auto Travel Demand with respect to Generalized Cost of Travel (corridor and region)

This variable is the percent change in corridor or region AADT per percent change in generalized cost. For instance, if a 10% increase in travel cost results in a 1% decrease in AADT then the elasticity of demand with respect to cost is -0.1. Many travel demand studies show that the value for the variable is many cases about -0.1. The "generalized cost of travel" includes all of the internal costs of auto travel that are perceived by users including: vehicle operating costs, travel time and safety risk.

Average Percent of Auto Trip Costs that are Crossing-Related, Percent

This is the corridor or region average of the percent of total trip costs at the crossing. For instance, if an average trip has a generalized cost of \$8.00 and \$0.80 are the average trips costs at the crossing, then the value for this variable should be 10. This factor is used in the consumer surplus calculation.

#### **Social and Other Costs**

The variables represent the monetized value of social costs and the market value of other costs.

#### The Discount Rate

This variable is the real discount rate for the analysis. This rate is applied to future constant dollar cost and benefit streams (i.e., the benefits and costs have been adjusted to account for forecast inflation).

Cost of a Fatal Accident, \$'000 (corridor and region)

Cost of an Injury Accident, \$'000 (corridor and region)

Cost of a Property Damage Accident, \$'000 (corridor and region)

Cost per Fatality, \$'000 (HSR formulas)

Cost per Injury, \$'000 (HSR formulas)

Average Out-of-Pocket Cost per Accident, \$"000 (HSR formulas)

Value of Time (auto) (\$/person-hr.)

Value of Time (truck – driver time)) (\$\frac{1}{2}\truck-hr.} (corridor and region)

Cost of HC Emissions, \$'000/Ton

Cost of NOx Emissions, \$'000/Ton

Cost of CO Emissions, \$'000/ Ton

Base Fuel Cost, \$/Gallon

This variable refers to the cost of fuel (dollars per gallon) in the base year.

Base Oil Cost, \$/Quart

Fuel Cost, Annual Rate of Change, Percent

Inflation, Annual Rate, Percent

This variable refers to the cost of motor oil (dollars per quart) in the base year.

Sources for social cost data included in the scenarios provided with *GradeDec 2000* were derived from the following sources:

Values of time:

Valuation of Travel-Time Savings and Predictability in Congested Conditions for Highway User-Cost Estimation, Small, Keneth, Xuehau Chu, Robert Noland, et al, National Cooperative Highway Research Program 2-18(2), January 1977

Accident and casualty unit cost values:

The Cost of Highway Crashes, Miller, Ted, John Viner, Nancy Pindus, et al., The Urban Institute, Washington, DC, prepared for the Federal Highway Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, Washington, DC, 1991.

Unit cost values for emissions:

Monetary Values of Air Pollution Emissions in Various U.S. Cities, Wang, M. and D. Santini, Transportation Research Board Paper No. 951046, 74th Annual Meeting, January 1995.

## **Data Tables**

The following tables are used in the model to calculate accident costs, capital and maintenance costs, emission rates by vehicle type, railroad emissions by engine type, and the rate fuel and oil are consumed by vehicle type per minute.

Grade crossing types used in the following data tables are:

- 1. Passive Grade Crossing
- 2. Flashing Lights
- 3. Flashing Lights and Gates
- 4. Grade Closure
- 5. Grade Separation
- 6. New Technology

Table 4 Project Costs

Crossing Type	Initial Capital Cost (thous. of \$)	O and M Costs (thous. of \$)	Other Life Cycle Costs (thous. of \$)
Passive	1.6	.2	0.0
Lights	74.80	1.8	0.0
Gates	106.10	2.5	0.0
Closure	20.00	0.0	0.0
Separation	1,500.00	.5	0.0
New Technology	180.00	.5	0.0

Based on FRA internal data

Table 5 Emission Rates by Type of Vehicle, Grams per Minute

Type of Vehicle	Hydro Carbons (HC)	Carbon Monoxide (CO)	Nitrogen Oxides (NOx)
1-car	0.3030	4.86	0.0915
2-bus	0.6655	11.85	0.183
3-truck	0.2559	3.144	0.2754

Derived from EPA Idling Emissions Table

Reference Document: EPA420-F-98-014

Table 6 Rates of Fuel and Oil Consumption

Type of Vehicle	Fuel gallons/minute	Oil quarts/minute
1-car	.00969	0.000626
2-bus	0.0184	0.000119
3-truck	0.02067	0.00134

Sources: "Passenger Car Fuel Economy - A Report to Congress", January 1980, EPA HERS Technical Report v3.26 Appendix H: A Numerical Example, FHWA, June 2000

"Technology Options to Reduce Truck Idling", F. Stodolsky, L. Gaines, A. Vyas, Transportation Technology, R&D Center - Argonne National Laboratory



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